

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirteenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirteenth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.8% (947) reside in the Thirteenth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (180) of Thirteenth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 66.7% of admissions from the Thirteenth Essex Representative District were male and 33.3% were female.
- Over 56.2% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 90.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.4% were black non-Latino, 3.7% were Latino, 0.4% were Asian, and 2.9% were other racial categories.
- 67.8% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.0% were married, and 11.9% reported not to be married now.
- 25.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 48.9% completed high school, and 25.3% had more than high school education.
- 35.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 15.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirteenth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirteenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	947	754	273	294	249	257	170
FY '96	1,001	752	247	267	219	371	293
FY '97	821	622	228	202	106	278	206
FY '98	806	625	217	217	93	256	161
FY '99	682	525	212	182	79	187	148
FY '00	982	692	249	223	90	328	238
FY '01	947	685	281	240	70	304	193

- Since dropping in FY 1999, residents of Thirteenth Essex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but an increase across all the other drug categories.
- Between FY 1999 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 30%, marijuana by 32%, cocaine by 31%, and heroin use by 62%, while crack use decreased by 11%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirteenth Essex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.1%	28.5%	9.5%	4.8%	1.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine was higher within your District.